

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ERWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT ERWOOD MARKET HALL ON THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017 AT 7.30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Gwyn Davies  
 Cllr Stephen Davies  
 Cllr Goronwy Davies  
 Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Williams  
 Cllr Mrs Anne Nicholls  
 Cllr Alan Pryce  
 Cllr Haydn Powell

There were no DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING was discussed and it was agreed that the Chairman sign them as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

Minute 1-2017

Fire Safety Checks Reference 159-2016. The Clerk reminded Cllr Stephen Davies to forward her the link required to obtain the posters for the free home safety checks.

Minute 2-2017

Tregare Barns Reference 163-2017. The Clerk reported that there was a revised set of plans on the website for Tregare Barns but the Clerk had not received any notification from the Planning Dept. on this. Mrs Karen Laurie-Parry had given the Clerk a copy of a letter she had sent to Planning on 4<sup>th</sup> November which the Clerk read out at the meeting. It gave details of her concerns when large lorries were negotiating the very sharp bend by Tregare Farm House that they would have to use part of the yard area therefore there would be need for double-gates not single gates as on the plan.

Minute 3-2017

Code of Conduct Advert Reference 166-2016. The Clerk informed the Committee that the cost for advertising the adoption of the Model Code of Conduct in the Brecon and Radnor Express was £75.96 which all thought was excessive.

CORRESPONDENCE

Minute 4-2017

Planning – Cwm Farm, Gwenddwr Full Planning consent had been received for the Conversion of a Barn to Residential Unit at Cwm Farm for Mr Robert Davies.

Minute 5-2017

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Road Sweeping                      The Clerk read out a reply received from Eric Johnson, Highways in which he stated that the sweeper had been from Erwood up to Crickdarn recently. He stated that due to budget cuts, Powys now shares one sweeper with Brecon and Abercrave. He also said that he wasn't aware that the Trunk Road Agency had any plans for more work on the gullies on the A470 until the Summer.

#### Minute 6-2017

Erwood Bus Stops                      Nick Townsend, Engineering Dept. had written in reply to our letter to explain that the tactile paving is an embossed paving slab usually with truncated domes, which indicates to blind or partially sighted people that a designated crossing point exists. The buff coloured single layer next to the kerbline indicates an uncontrolled crossing point. He is going to look into our request for advanced warning signs which would have a pedestrians crossing plate on it but we would need to wait for Welsh Government approval. Cllr Stephen Davies intends to meet with the Trunk Road Agency to discuss the possibility of a bus shelter at the southbound stop.

#### Minute 7-2017

Decommissioning Of Phone Boxes                      Residents living near Penrheol Phone Box and Old Crickdarn School Phone Box want to keep these phone boxes and the Clerk had sent this information to Powys Council also that residents of Gwenddwr Village and Llaneglwys Village wish to adopt their kiosks to house their defibrillators in due course. Gwenddwr residents had been told by BT and Powys County Council that the kiosks can only be adopted by Community Councils but the BT website states that they can be adopted by Committees with charity status and this needs to be clarified. Cllr Stephen Davies had spoken with the Powys Planning and was told that they were waiting a few replies and hoped to get the list signed off by Sue Bolter next week and sent to BT. The list states that the four kiosks in our area wish to be adopted with the Clerk's details as a contact. The Clerk would update Mr & Mrs Banks, Gwenddwr on this. To put on agenda for next meeting.

#### Minute 8-2017

Proposed Base Station, Allt Mawr                      The Clerk has received a pre-application consultation letter for a proposed base station at Allt Mawr Isaf from PHA Comms., Harpenden on behalf of EE to improve the network coverage gaps along with the A470, B4567 and around Aberedw. Many other sites had previously been inspected and the site at Allt Mawr Isaf was the most suitable with the best coverage for the area. The Clerk wrote to each Councillor and, as it was not a planning application at this stage, it was agreed that a letter be sent back supporting this especially as it should improve communication services for

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the area. A further letter had now been received stating that this firm intend to change the original proposal of a 30m mast to a 35m to achieve the best network coverage. Cllr Elizabeth Williams requested a copy of this letter. A planning application will shortly be submitted to Powys but the Community Council all agreed to support the new proposal for a 35m mast.

#### Minute 9-2017

Renewable Energy  
Search Areas

A meeting had been held recently by graziers and other interested people regarding the proposed changes to the Local Development Plan to include wind and solar search areas on the hills surrounding Erwood. The public consultation period commenced on 10<sup>th</sup> October up to 21<sup>st</sup> November but it was only when reading an article in the Brecon & Radnor on 17<sup>th</sup> November that people were aware of these new proposals. The Clerk contacted each Councillor and it was agreed that Erwood Community Council should send a letter of objection. The plan covers a very large area with no specific details and would be detrimental to the local hill farmers in particular. The Clerk sent a letter to this effect to the Powys LDP Team.

#### Minute 10-2017

Section 137(4)A -  
Local Govt. Act 1972

The Welsh Government office has advised that the Section 137 limit for 2017-18 has increased from £7.42 per elector to £7.57. This sum may be spent by each Community Council on activities for which it has no other specific powers which would bring direct benefit to the area.

#### Minute 11-2017

Election Meeting

Powys Executive Dept has organised training sessions for Clerks and also Chairmen in readiness for the elections in May. The Clerk agreed to attend on 28<sup>th</sup> February at Brecon and Cllr Alan Pryce and Cllr Anne Nicholls agreed to attend in Llandrindod on 7<sup>th</sup> March. The Clerk to reply accordingly.

#### Minute 12-2017

Erwood Pit Stop

The document between Erwood Community Council as Custodial Trustees and Erwood Pit Stop Trust had now been finalised. This was signed by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and witnessed by the Clerk.

#### Minute 13-2017

One Voice Wales

A letter had been received from One Voice Wales listing all the training courses available to the Council. It was decided that, as there could be different Councillors appointed at the Elections in May, these details be brought to the June meeting following the Annual General Meeting,

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Minute 14-2017

## Budget Review

The Clerk had drawn up the budget review for 2017-18 and handed copies to the Councillors in order to decide on the sum to apply for the next precept. Invoices still outstanding for this year up to 31<sup>st</sup> March were estimated at £3,000 with an expected balance in the Current Account of about £300 at year end. Funds available in the Premium Account would be approximately £4500. A transfer from the Premium Account to the Current Account would be needed in April.

Minute 15-2017Risk Assessment  
Review

Councillors were given copies of the updated risk assessment form for 2017-18. It was agreed that the information was accurate and was signed by the Chairman.

Minute 16-2017

## Internal Auditor

The Clerk had spoken to Miss Christine Price from Bronllys who agreed to give some thought to being our Internal Audit. She already is the Internal Auditor for Bronllys CC. It was suggested that the Clerk contact her again and discuss the work involved and to also ask what her charge would be. The present contract details signed last year by Alun Clarke would have to be amended to include the point made by the External Auditor, Grant Thornton, on our Audit Return. The Internal Auditor must state their independence and should not be requested to undertake tasks that may compromise this.

Minute 17-2017

## Precept 2017/18

Taking into account all the financial details in our budget review, it was agreed by all Councillors that the precept be increased by £100 to £3,000 for 2017/18 and together with the transfer of money from the Premium Saver Account would be sufficient to cover the extra expenses this financial year such as elections. This would also reduce the total in the Premium Saver Account as advised by the Auditors.

Minute 18-2017

## SLCC membership

The charge for SLCC membership this year is £55 which is £10 less than last year as this year Councils are being charged £10 separately for the ALCC fee (Trade Union charge). Councillors agreed to approve the cost as information received at these Clerks meetings keep the Council up to date with all legal and other requirements and are most beneficial.

Minute 19-2017HighwaysLeaves on Roads  
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There were several complaints about the roads not being cleaned of

	leaves as the condition of the roads are now very slippery .
Road to Cefngarth	Cllr Haydn Powell reported that on quite a few occasions, they have had to pull their lorry up Cefngarth Pitch to the farm with their tractor as the lorry was skidding on the leaves and it was too dangerous to reverse back around the corner.
Road by Old School, Llaneglwys	Cllr Stephen Davies stated the bottom side of the road below the Old School House, Llaneglwys needs cleaning urgently.
Cilbedog Farm	The road by Cilbedog Farm is breaking away and with the leaves lying on the road as well, there has been a few near misses with lorries along this stretch of road.
Llaneglwys Village	Roads very dangerous and haven't been cleaned for the last two years.
Tregare Road	This road has been reported on several occasions, with dead leaves making it so dangerous.
Vehicles skidding	There has been reports of vehicles skidding on leaves around Crickadarn area and also by Ynyswye on the approach to the Twmpath Hill.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Litter Bin	It was reported that the second litter bin outside the toilets requested a couple of months ago has still not been delivered.
New Salt Bin	A new salt bin has been provided at the bottom of Cilbedog Farm which is much appreciated.
	The Clerk to report all the above to Eric Johnson, Highways as the roads are now are in a desperate condition, preventing lorries getting to their destinations and damaging their vehicles.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

##### Minute 20-2017

T4 Timetable	Cllr Alan Pryce stated that the T4 timetable had not yet been moved down nearer the toilet area which had been requested many months ago. Also no T4 timetable on the other side for the southern journeys by the new bus stop. The Clerk to write to Nick Townsend chasing this work.
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##### Minute 21-2017

Street Lighting	The lights in Llaneglwys and Crickadarn Villages are not working. The Clerk to report this to Powys Lighting Dept.
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##### Minute 22-2017

Rights of Way	Powys County Council are carrying out their 10 year review of the rights of ways in the area. Any comments to be either sent by e-mail or telephone to Mark Stafford-Tolley, Powys Countryside Access Officer at Gwalia, Llandrindod Wells. A copy of this letter was given to Cllr Anne Nicholls.
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Minute 23-2017

Cheques                      Cheques paid since last meeting:  
£75.96 – Brecon & Radnor Express – Advert re Code of Conduct  
£37.02 – XMA Ltd. – Purchase of Ink Cartridges

Minute 24-2017

Bank Balances              Bank Balances at end of December 2016:  
Community Account - £3,537.95  
Premium Saver Account - £4,501.29

Minute 25-2017

Date of Next                      To be arranged beginning of March if no planning applications  
Meeting                              received in the mean time.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION AT THE NEXT MEETING

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